



# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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### **EARTH DAY CELEBRATION PWSD #5 OF NEW MADRID COUNTY**

**At an EARTH DAY celebration today Greg Branum, State Director for Missouri USDA Rural Development, presented Public Water Supply District (PWSD) #5 of New Madrid County with a mock check for \$3,046,200.00.**

**“The funds will allow for the water district to extend their services to an additional 300 users. When extensions for Phase III are completed the District will be serving 990 households in New Madrid County,” Branum said. Branum gave special recognition to U.S. Senator Christopher “Kit” Bond; U.S. Senator Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for their coordination of funding for the project.**

**The Missouri Department of Economic Development has also been a partner in this project from the beginning according to Branum and he also recognized Senator Bill Foster, State Representative Lanie Black and State Representative Denny Merideth III for their efforts in funding the project.**

**Public Water Supply District #5 was started in 1986 with phase I, which served an initial 365 users with safe drinking water and phase II began in 1999 an additional 354 households were served.**

**Bob Ray, Board Chairman of the water district was also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Rural Development for his long and hard work on the water district. “I have been working on this project for 17 years and have appreciated the assistance the water district received from Rural Development”, Ray said.**

**Ms. Erin Hamm, Staff Assistant for Senator James Talent attended the ceremony on his behalf and expressed his appreciation for the work done by the Water District and Rural Development in meeting the needs of the community.**

**Anyone seeking more information about this or any of the other USDA, Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Catherine M. Walters, Community Development Manager at 831 S. Hwy 105, Charleston, MO. 63834 or by calling 573-649-9947 (ext 4).**